drugs seized by the enforcement agencies during 1988-89 are as under:—

Drugs	1988	1989
	(in Kgs.)	
Opium	3304	4855
Morphine	23	10
Heroin	3029	2714
Ganja	45994	54463
Hashish	17523	8179
Cocine	13	3

(b) The number of people prosecuted and convicted for the years 1986 to 1989 are as follows:—

	1986	1987	1988	1989
No. of persons prosecuted	*5525	4863	3704	3694
No. of prersons convicted	586	297	339	255

(* from14-11-85 to 31-12-86)

(c) The steps taken by government to control drug trafficking include provision of deterrent punishment to drug traffickers, strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery (especially around borders and vulnerable areas), adoption of liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers, strengthening of bilateral and multilateral co-operation to prevent illicit drug movement and assist in investigation of cases world-wide.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 has also been strengthened by providing for death penalty on second coviction in respect of special offences and for forfeiture of property of drug offenders. Besides, all drug related offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable.

Non-Resident status for Merchant Navy Officers

2052. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to accord the status of Non-resident Indian to the Merchant Navy Officers; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Income-tax and Central Excise Duty outstanding against big business Houses

2053. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what amount is outstanding against big business houses towards income-tax and Central excise duty upto February, 1990; and

(b) what steps are being taken to recover these amounts from these houses?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) As on 28th February, 1990, an amount of Rs. 224.05 crores and Rs. 236.09 crores is outstanding as arrears of Income-tax and Central Excise duty respectively from the top 20-business houses.

(b) Appropriate administrative, legal and other steps as considered necessary are being taken. Most of the amounts being linked with court cases, efforts are being made to get the cases listed for early hearings and stays against the recovery vacated.